



THE NAVAJO NATION

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INTERIM PRESIDENT
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INTERIM VICE-PRESIDENT
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January 24, 1991

Robert Bornstein
On-Scene-Coordinator
Emergency Response Section
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Mr. Bornstein:

Thank you very much for your support and cooperation and the interest you continue to sustain for the Brown-Vandever and Desiderio uranium sites. We are waiting for the laboratory data with the same expectation and eagerness as you are. In the meantime I am sending you some information I trust you will find useful.

The charcoal cannisters that we had placed in two homes and a ventilation shaft at the sites gave radon concentration readings as follows:

NAV9001:	Jenny Desiderio's residence	3.3 pCi/l
NAV9002:	Near ventilation shaft at Brown-Vandever (Station 31, Section 3; your map)	5114.6 pCi/l
NAV9003:	Lena Vandever's residence (Trailer home near Brown-Vandever's residence)	2.0 pCi/l

We have also placed and collected alpha-track devices that will enable us to estimate radon concentrations inside more of the homes at the two sites. However, we expect these results to be available from the laboratory which is performing the analyses in about two more weeks. The alpha-track devices were in place for durations of approximately two to three months. I will send you the complete details as soon as I have the results.



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I have enclosed a copy of a photograph taken at the Brown-Vandever site on January 10, 1991. The photograph is taken from near the gate looking towards Stations 1 and 2 in Section 1 (your map). It shows run-off trickling down the road coming from the vicinity of the mine waste. I also took gamma radiation readings using a LUDLUM 19 and found that at Station 1 the reading at a waist high level had increased to around 50 microR/hr from our earlier reading of 35 microR/hr. At Station 2, at a waist high level, the readings had increased to about 150 microR/hr from 135 microR/hr. Just as in our previous investigation, the readings were approximately the same for the waist high and ground measurements. The increase in the values obtained is not attributable to the instrument because I got the same background reading at the staging area near Brown Vandever's residence as we did on our previous visit: around 14 microR/hr at waist high. Judging from the condition of the road, with water trickling down, I suspect that contaminant migration is a cause of the increase in the gamma radiation levels at Stations 1 and 2, Section 1.

We look forward to hearing from you, and to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gaurav Rajen
Navajo Superfund Program

Concurrence:



Joanne Manygoats
Director
Navajo Superfund Program

cc: Louise Linkin
Navajo Environmental Protection Administration

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